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*Mechanicam vero duplicem Veteres constituerunt: Rationalem quae per Demonstrationes accurate procedit, & Practicam. Ad practicam spectant Artes omnes Manuales, a quibus utique Mechanica nomen mutuata est. Cum autem Artifices parum accurate operari soleant, fit ut Mechanica omnis a Geometria ita distinguatur, ut quicquid accuratum sit ad Geometriam referatur, quicquid minus accuratum ad Mechanicam. Attamen errores non sunt Artis sed Artificum. Qui minus accurate operatur, imperfectior est Mechanicus, & si quis accuratissime operari posset, hic foret Mechanicus omnium perfectissimus.* NEWTON

*La généralité que j'embrasse, au lieu d'éblouir nos lumières, nous découvrira plutôt les véritables loix de la Nature dans tout leur éclat, & on y trouvera des raisons encore plus fortes, d'en admirer la beauté & la simplicité.* EULER

*... ut proinde his paucis consideratis tota haec materia redacta sit ad puram Geometriam, quod in physicis & mechanicis unice desideratum.* LEIBNIZ

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